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Message Text

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64
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-11

SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 ACDA-10 /095 W
---------- 106508
R 120950Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 582
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1817

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, US
SUBJECT: RABIN DENIES SECRET COMMITMENT RESTRICTING ISRAELI
MILITARY OPTION AGAINST SYRIA

1. FOLLOWING IS OFFICIAL GOI TEXT OF STATMENT DELIVERED BY RABIN THE THE KNESSET ON MARCH 10 IN REPLY TO A MOTION ON "THE REVELATIONS OF SECRET AGREEMENTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ADVERSELY AFFECTING ISRAEL'S SECURITY," PRESENTED BY MK ZALMAN SHOVAL (LIKUD).

2. BEGIN TEXT: I SHALL REPLY IN A CLEAR FASHION TO THE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY KNESSET MEMBER SHOVAL. WITH REFERENCE TO THE FIRST QUESTION--DID ISRAEL GIVE ANY UNDERTAKING WHATSOEVER RESTRICTING THE FREEDOM OF DECISION AND THE FREEDOM OF MILITARY ACTION?--THE ANSWER IS: NO.

3. ISRAEL HAS EMPHASIZED THAT IT CONSIDERS ITSELF BOUND BY THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, BY A STATE OF CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL, AND BY THE INTERIM AG-

REEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL--AS LONG AS
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THESE AGREEMENTS ARE OBSERVED IN WORD AND SPIRIT BY THE

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PARTIES CONCERNED. NO UNDERTAKINGS BEYOND THIS WERE GIVEN, AND ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO CAST DOUBTS ON THIS MISSES THE TRUTH.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE POLITICAL ASPECT, ISRAEL HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS ON A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH ANY ARAB COUNTRY. AND ON THIS SUBJECT, THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTED A RESOLUTION WITH REFERENCE TO SYRIA AS WELL.

5. WITH REGARD TO ENDING THE STATE OF WAR--AS IS KNOWN, FOUR WEEKS AGO THE CABINET ADOPTED A SUMMATION ALLOWINGTHE PRIME MINISTER TO INFORM THE UNITED STATES THAT THERE WAS READINESS ON OUR PART TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ENDING THE STATEOF WAR WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES. NO OVERT OR COVERT PROMISES BEYOND THIS WERE GIVEN BY ISRAEL. THUS, ANY ATTEMPT TO BEFOG THE ISSUE, TO BLUR THE FACTS, LACKS FOUNDATION.

6. AS FOR THE UNLED STATES, I CAN TELL THE KNESSET WHAT WE WERE TOLD. ON 4 MARCH 1976, ABOUT A WEEK AGO, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, TESTIFYING BEFORE THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF RERRESENTATIVES, UPON BEING ASKED A QUESTION IN THE WAKE OF THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SADAT--AS REPORTED IN THE "NEW YORK TIMES," WHICH KNESSET MEMBER SHOVAL QUOTED--STATED: "WE HAVE PLACED ALL THE UNDERTAKINGS WE HAVE MADE BEFORE THE CONGRESS, AND UNDERTAKINGS THAT INVOLVED THE U.S. OR U.S. COMMITMENTS. WITH RESPECT TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINIANS, WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY, PUBLICLY, PRIVATELY AND IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE FORUM, THAT THE PRE-CONDITION FOR OUR CONSIDERING PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IS PALESTINIAN ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 AND OF THE LEGITIMATE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. THIS IS OUR POSITION, THIS REMAINS OUR POSITION, AND ANY REMARKS WE MAKE TO ANYBODY HAVE TO BE SEEN IN THAT CONTEXT."

7. THIS IS INCLUDED IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING--SIGNED BY THE ISRAEL AND U.S. FOREIGN MINISTERS--PRESENTED TO THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. THAT IS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN POSITION, IT IS NOT AN ISRAELI POSITITION. THIS IS THE AMERICAN POSITION AS SUBMITTED TO US.

8. IF KNESSET MEMBER SHOVAL ASKED ABOUT AN OVERT OR COVERT ISRAELI UNDERTAKING, THEN HE HAS BEEN GIVEN A CLEAR REPLY. AS FOR THE UNITED STATES, I CAN ONLY QUOTE WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID. I DO NOT THINK IT WOLD BE WISE TO DO MORE THAN THAT.

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9. IN VIEW OF THE AFORESAID,I RECOMMEND TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE KNESSET THAT THEY BE NOT LED ASTRAY BY NON-AUTHORITIATIVE
REPORTS. THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE KNESSET TO HOLD
A DEBATE ON THE BASIS OF UNTRUE REPORTS. I THEREFORE MOVE
THAT THE SUBJECT BE STRUCK FROM THE AGENDA. END TEXT.
TOON

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